(c) if so, what measures have been taken by Government to provide suitable job opportunities for them in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) There has been an ongoing recession in the US economy resulting in reduction of staff which include Indian IT professionals.

(b) and (c) While no specific study has been conducted in this regard, several policy measures have been taken to facilitate infrastructural development and attract foreign investments in the area of Information Technology for improving the position of employment in the country. Some of these are, setting up new Software Technology Parks (STPs) establishing Media Lab Asia, spread of Internet and IT enabled services.

Software Technology Parks in Karnataka

1912. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether KEONICS, Karnataka had sent proposals to open software technology parks ia various parts of the State;

(b) if so, which are the places proposed by the KEONICS; and

(c) the action, if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1. Belgaum
2. Bellary
3. Hassan
4. Davangere
5. Gulbarga
6. Kolar

(c) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) have informed the Chairman, KEONICS that the deployment of STPI facilities at various new centres is subject to initiation/clearances/completion of a survey about the potential and viability of each centre and financial

as well as infrastructural support to be provided by the State Government.

World economic recession in IT sector

1913. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether world economic recession has hit the Indian Information Technology Sector in the recent past and Government have taken notice of the down turn;

(b) if so, what are the measures contemplated by Government to arrest this sector's waning performance as it is vulnerable to overseas shocks especially US-market; and

(c) whether there is plan for exploring untapped markets of the under-developed countries and special ties with ASEAN countries, EU countries and others?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) There has been some decline in the growth of software exports as a result of slowdown in the world economy. During the first half of the year, the exports have grown by 33 percent against last year's annual growth of 55 percent.

(b) and (c) The Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC), a society under the Ministry of IT, has been taking steps to explore other thrust markets like Latin America, Europe, UK, Japan, Australia etc. A global event "India soft" is also being organized in Delhi to provide platform to small and medium companies in India to interact and explore trade possibilities with visiting delegates from various countries.

Setting up of A.B. Vajpayee Centre in Mongolia

1914. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up Atal Bihari Vajpayee Centre of Excellence in Information & Communication Technology in Mongolia;